

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AU

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S PARTY VICTORIOUS IN SALZBURG ELECTIONS

REF: VIENNA 2827

1. SALZBURG PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS HELD YESTERDAY (MARCH 31)
RESULTED IN GREATER THAN ANTICIPATED GAINS FOR PEOPLE'S PARTY (OEV),

MAINTAINED LOSING TREND FOR SCIOALISTS (SPOE) IN PROVINCIAL
AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (EXCEPT FOR VIENNA) AND PRODUCED
EXPECTED SLIGHT LOSS FOR FREEDOM PARTY (FPOE).

2. BY COMPARISON TO 1969 ELECTIONS, OEV IMPROVED ITS PER-
CENTAGE FROM 40.7 TO 47.1; THE SOCIALISTS WENT FROM 40.4
TO 36.3; WHILE FPOE RECEDED FROM ALL-TIME HIGH OF 18 TO 15.5.
THE COMMUNISTS RECEIVED 1.2 PERCENT COMPARED TO 0.7 PERCENT
IN 1969. THE NEXT PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE WILL HAVE OEV
MAJORITY OF 18 REFLECTING GAIN OF 3 MANDATES (2 FORMERLY HELD
BY SPOE AND 1 FROM FPOE); SPOE-13; FPOE-5; COMMUNISTS NONE.
GOVERNOR LECHNER WILL HAVE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT WITH 4 FROM OEV; 2-SPOE AND FPOE RETAINING ITS
SINGLE SEAT.

3. SIGNIFICANT GAINS FOR OEV ATTRIBUTED TO FACTORS NOTED IN
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REFTEL, NAMELY, POPULARITY OF GOVERNOR LECHNER (FOR WHOM

SOCIALIST CANDIDATE STEINOCHER WAS NO MATCH), O EVP'S SHREWD EXPLOITATION OF INFLATIONARY SITUATION FOR WHICH IT BLAMED SOCIALIST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DISCONTENT AMONG FARMERS. INTERESTINGLY, PEOPLE'S PARTY VICTORY IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO GAINS IN URBAN CENTER WHICH ARE TRADITIONALLY SOCIALIST STRONGHOLDS.

4. WHILE COMPLETE RETURES NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR MARCH 31 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN TYROL PROVINCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT O EVP REGISTERED GAINS THERE AS WELL AT EXPENSE OF SPOE.

5. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF ELECTION RESULTS TO FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.
HUMES

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